

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 55
By McLeary

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. James L. Potts, Jr. of
McKenzie, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of
the passing of Dr. James L. Potts, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Potts was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional
who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous
capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on October 3, 1927 in Dayton, Kentucky, to the late James L. Potts,
Sr. and Georgia Imogene (Jackson) Potts, James L. Potts served with courage and honor in the
United States Navy for three years at the close of World War II; and

WHEREAS, following his commendable service in the Navy, James L. Potts attended
college on the G.I. Bill at Paducah Community College and the University of Kentucky; his hard
work and diligence earned him Master and Doctoral degrees at George Peabody College for
Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Potts followed his significant education with a fifty-year teaching career
first serving in a small public school, in Grayville, Illinois before moving on to Eastern Kentucky
University, the University of Virginia; and finally Bethel College.

WHEREAS, Dr. James L. Potts, Jr. served with acumen and alacrity as a Professor of
History and Geography at Bethel College for forty years, in which position he earned the respect
of his students and colleagues alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, because of the exceptional caliber of this highly respected man, Bethel
College began an annual symposium in October 2004 named the "James L. Potts International
Affairs Symposium"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Potts also received the noteworthy distinction of being entered into the U.S. Congressional Record in 2003 and was personally presented this recognition by Congressman Tanner; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Potts was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James L. Potts, Jr. enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of forty years, Carolyn Elizabeth (Norris) Potts and was the proud father of daughters, Frances Anne Hale and Rebecca Sue Potts, and son and daughter-in-law, James Jackson (Jimmy) and Wendy Potts; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable man will be greatly missed by his brother, Larry Potts; grandchildren, Elizabeth Anne Hale, Alexander Dakota Potts, Jessa Brooke Potts, and Charles Glenn Potts; and step-grandchildren, William Tyler Cary and Anna Elizabeth Cary; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Potts was preceded in death by his first wife, Frances Bandy Potts; brother, David Potts; step and -son, Charles (Chuck) Friend III; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Potts leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. James L. Potts, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. James L. Potts, Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.